

2013 Session

House Joint Resolution 2 - Testimony

Short Title: Requesting an interim study to investigate electronic records management by state and local government. Study outcome reported to 64th Legislature.

Testifying: Kathy Bramer, Chief Deputy, Secretary of State

My name is Kathy Bramer (spell name) and I am the Chief Deputy for the Secretary of State. I

appear before you today on behalf of Secretary of State Linda McCulloch to urge your support

of HJR 2. The office of the Secretary of State holds certain powers and duties regarding the

State of Montana's public records (see 2-6-201 through 208 MCA) and guides and assists the

executive branch, legislative services, and judicial agencies in the management of public records

and information. As administrator of the State Records Committee, the Secretary of State

works to safeguard the state's ability to identify and protect, provide access to, dispose of, and

preserve public records.

HJR 2 will provide a much-needed opportunity to gather data , assess needs, and make strategic

recommendations for the how the state's public records will be managed in the electronic age.

Today's challenges of public records management are extensive. We are facing volumes of

electronic records in unidentified storage locations or applications. In addition, electronic

records are being kept in inconsistent formats and, in many cases, left behind in obsolete

systems. Definitions and standards are outdated and much of our communication is now in electronic format only and not always easily accessible.

The State of Montana needs enterprisewide policy, planning and resources to properly archive, maintain, and access state and local electronic records. The need is great – Montana needs a comprehensive framework for electronic government records management. These tools will allow the Secretary of State's office to fulfill its mission to guide management of the public records of Montana for its citizens, businesses, and government customers. The challenge is before us to effectively manage public records in today's e-business world.

The Office of Secretary of State Linda McCulloch is prepared to partner with an interim committee and other stakeholders to make this effort a success and bring practical, sustainable, and cost-effective recommendations for electronic records management to the 2015 legislative session for consideration.

I strongly encourage you to vote Do Pass on HJR2.

I am available for any questions. Thank you.